

31 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Proctor
FROM : [REDACTED] STATINTL
SUBJECT : Library Folders on Religion and SLA

1. Per your instructions, I have asked the library to run the NY Times Information Bank to see if either of these two folders could be "reconstructed". Neither can be reconstituted in toto from the NYTIB.

--In the case of the information in the Religion folder, only a very few documents can be recovered--and these only by specific name of group or group leader (e.g. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi). No recovery can be made by searching under "psychic" or "parapsychological" phenomena.

--For the SLA, virtually the opposite occurs: NYTIB has 454 references to SLA. The problem here is that "scan" capability is limited to 100 references at a time, so for each request the library would need to make an overall run, then screen the run in five segments. Moreover, even this would not enable reconstitution of the folder: it contains documents not indexed into the NYTIB.

2. Eisenbeiss indicated that, as he understood it, your concern at the outset was whether these folders were being utilized. They are, but neither is what you might call a "best-seller": The SLA folder was tapped 8 times in a year, Religion 6 times. This does not include whatever use may have been made without the Library's knowledge (thought to be little).

3. If your concern also includes the propriety of our establishing folders specifically on these groups, I would point out that all the information is open-source--info that any library would have access to.

4. I would also point out that the folder on the SLA was set up to contain selected items rather than any and all info, whereas the Religion folder contains nearly all the open-source info the library has been able to get its paws on; and each folder was set up because the library found it more efficient to establish folders rather than scramble each time a request for pertinent info was levied.

5. If you decide that these folders should be discontinued, you should also provide guidance re:

--whether the library is to be allowed to service requests for information on these organizations or individuals in the future, and if so

--whether the library will be allowed to "re-establish" folders on the SLA or religious groups should the request volume warrant it.

6. In making your decision, you should also bear in mind that the requesters who use these folders are usually focusing as much on what the groups are doing and how they are doing it rather than on the group itself. In other words, the SLA's modus operandi is of more interest than the SLA itself; the psychic or other phenomena or activities of the religious groups are of more interest than the groups themselves--or their spiritual leaders.

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28 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: The Religion and SLA folders in the CIA Library
File on Dissidence and Terrorism

1. Inventory folder number 57, Religion, contains articles about religious sects, cults and splinter groups which represent dissident elements in world societies and sponsor or espouse dissident themes. For example, the Anada Marga Yoga Society is viewed in India as a disruptive group which preaches fascism, according to one Washington Post article. Other articles in this folder contain information about violent actions, such as bombing of synagogues, taken against religious groups. The folder also contains items about psychic and parapsychologist cults which are from time-to-time of interest to Agency requesters. Some of the denominations, factions and groups do not appear to strictly pertain to dissidence but are kept together in this folder for easier retrieval.

2. In the SLA folder, inventory number 61, are articles which mainly concern the Hearst kidnapping and include the House Committee on Internal Security report on the SLA. The most recent articles (November and December 1974 and January 1975) deal with speculation on the whereabouts of Miss Hearst and the trial of two admitted members of the SLA. Of particular interest in this case was the finding of the "Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla," written by the Brazilian revolutionary Carlos Marighela. The SLA apparently used this text to plan and carry out the operation. Because of the classic nature of this case it is still of interest to Agency components dealing with terrorism.

STATINTL

Chief, CIA Library Branch

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